

### REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated February 24, 2006. Claims 1 to 3, 5, 8, 9, 16, 17 and 19 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 16, 17 and 19 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

As an initial matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that Claim 4 contained allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Independent Claims 1, 16, 17 and 19 have been amended to incorporate all of the features of Claim 4 as specified in the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. Furthermore, Claim 4 has been canceled. Accordingly, Applicants submit that Claims 1, 16, 17 and 19 are now in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed allowable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Frank L. Cire', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

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